

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action dated 27 July 2004 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schad et al.

Claims 1, and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shermeister.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is significantly different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their respective structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Schad et al., for claims 1 and 2, as an example of a wheel having a wheel rim that includes a plurality of orifices M formed therein, and including an inner surface. Each of the orifices M is defined with at least one engaging flange. A plurality of spokes H is attached to the rim. A plurality of latches J each includes a bore formed therein to receive the spokes H. Each of the latches includes a base with a shape corresponding to the orifice M of the rim, thus allowing the base of the latches J to be engaged through the orifice M of the rim.

Each of the latches J further includes a catch L disposed on the base with an outer contour no greater than that of the base, allowing the catch L to be engaged through the orifices M of the rim. The catches L include at least one cut off portion to define at least one engaging surface and at least one tongue K. The catches L are engageable with the orifices M when the latches J are rotated

relative to the rim to engage the flange of the rim with at least one cut off portion and at least one tongue K portion of the catches L to thus anchor the base of the latch J to the rim.

The latches J include a first fastener extended from the catch L, and a second fastener N is threaded to the first fastener to secure the latch J to the rim.

The Examiner further cites Shermeister, for claims 1 and 3-5, as an example of a wheel having a wheel rim 24 that includes a plurality of orifices formed therein, and including an inner surface. Each of the orifices is defined with at least one engaging flange. A plurality of spokes 25 is attached to the rim 24. A plurality of latches 43 each includes a bore formed therein to receive the spokes 25. Each of the latches 43 includes a base with a shape corresponding to the orifice of the rim 24, thus allowing the base of the latches 43 to be engaged through the orifice of the rim 24.

Each of the latches 24 further includes a catch disposed on the base with an outer contour no greater than that of the base, allowing the catch to be engaged through the orifices of the rim 24. The catches include at least one cut off portion to define at least one engaging surface and at least one tongue. The catches are engageable with the orifices when the latches 43 are rotated relative to the rim 24 to engage the flange of the rim with at least one cut off portion and at least one tongue portion of the catches to thus anchor the base of the latch 43 to the rim 24.

The spokes 25 include a barrel 32 secured thereto and engaged with the bore of the latches 43, respectively. Each of the barrels 32 includes a screw hole formed therein, while the spokes 25 include a threaded end 31 to be threaded into the screw hole of the barrels 32 to secure the spokes 25 to the barrels 32. The barrels 32 further

include an enlarged head 34 to engage with the latches 43 to anchor the spokes 25 to the latches 43.

However, actually, in Schad et al., the sleeves J include a washer or collar K and a nut L having an outer diameter greater than that of the sockets M of the rim, and thus may not be engaged into or through the sockets M of the rim. The threaded bolt N should be engaged onto the rim at the other side of the rim for threading with the spokes H or the sleeves J; i.e., the threaded bolt N and the spokes H and the sleeves J are required to be secured together from both sides of the rim.

Similarly, in Shermeister, the barrels 32 and the latches 43 also may not be engaged through the orifices of the rim 24, and are also required to be secured together from both sides of the rim 24. The users may have to engage the latches 43 into the orifices of the rim 24 from one side of the rim 24, and then to insert and to engage the barrels 32 with the latches 43 from the other side of the rim 24, such that the spokes 25 may not be easily and quickly attached to the rim 24.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the amended claim 1, the barrel (23) may be engaged through the bore (31) of the latches (30) and threaded to the spokes (20) to secure the latches (30) to the spokes (20) before the latches (30) are engaged into the orifices (12) of the rim (10). The latches (30) may then be quickly anchored and secured to the rim (10) by rotating the latches (30) to engage the relative smaller catches (33) into the orifices (12) of the rim (10), and then to secure the barrel (23) and the latches (30) and the spokes (20) to the rim (10) with the fastener (50). No fasteners or elements are required to be secured to the latches (30) and the spokes (20) from inside of the rim (10).

The cited arts fail to teach a barrel (23) engageable through the latches (30) and threaded to the spokes (20) before the latches (30) are engaged into the orifices (12) of the rim (10), and the latches (30) may then be quickly anchored and secured to the rim (10) by rotating the latches (30) to engage the relative smaller catches (33) into the orifices (12) of the rim (10), and then to secure the barrel (23) and the latches (30) and the spokes (20) to the rim (10) with the fastener (50), without engaging any fastener or element from inside of the rim (10) to secure to the latches (30) and the spokes (20). The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner BELLINGER are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

By: Chen Yi Sheng 10/23/200x
Yi Sheng CHEN
Inventor & Applicant

P.O. Box 65-45
Taichung, Taiwan 403